

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A treatment device, comprising:  
an antimicrobial sheet material having
  - 5 a first layer of a gel composition including a block copolymer and mineral oil, and
  - a second layer engaging at least one side of said first layer, said second layer containing a bactericidal metal; and
  - means for retaining said antimicrobial sheet material in a selected position in a
  - 10 body cavity of a user.
2. The device as recited in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said bactericidal metal is silver.
- 15 3. The device as recited in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said bactericidal metal is crystalline silver.
4. The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said bactericidal metal further comprises silver, said silver mechanically attached to said second layer so that, when
- 20 said second layer is wetted, at least a portion of said silver is released in the form of ionic silver.
5. The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said second layer further comprises silver-containing nylon fabric.

6. The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said second layer is selected from the group consisting of (a) a coating on said first layer, said coating containing said bactericidal metal, (b) a quantity of said bactericidal metal in said first layer, and (c) a silver-containing material attached to said first layer.

5

7. The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial sheet material further comprises at least one third layer engaging another side of said first layer, said at least one third layer made of moisture-absorbing material, moisture-permeable material, or moisture-impermeable material, or gas-permeable material

10

8. The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said retaining means further comprises a dental appliance.

9. The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said retaining means further  
15 comprises a tether.

10. The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said retaining means further comprises an appliance made of a somewhat flexible, conformable material.

20 11. The device as recited in claim 1, wherein said retaining means further comprises a shapeable appliance.

12. A treatment device, comprising:  
an antimicrobial sheet material containing a bactericidal metal; and  
25 an appliance for retaining said antimicrobial sheet material in a selected position engaging a treatment site so that, when said antimicrobial sheet material is in

said selected position, said antimicrobial sheet material releases metal ions to said treatment site when wetted.

13. The composition as recited in claim 12, wherein at least a portion of said  
5 bactericidal metal is silver.

14. The device as recited in claim 12, wherein at least a portion of said bactericidal metal is crystalline silver.

10 15. The device as recited in claim 12, wherein said antimicrobial sheet material further comprises silver-containing nylon fabric.

16. The device as recited in claim 12, wherein said antimicrobial sheet material further comprises:  
15 a first layer of polymeric material; and  
a second layer engaging at least one side of said first layer, said second layer containing said bactericidal metal.

17. The device as recited in claim 12, wherein said antimicrobial sheet  
20 material further comprises:

a first layer of polymeric material including a gel composition including a block copolymer and mineral oil; and

a second layer engaging at least one side of said first layer, said second layer containing said bactericidal metal. The device as recited in claim 9, wherein said first  
25 layer further comprises a gel composition including a block copolymer and mineral oil.

18. The device as recited in claim 12, wherein said appliance is at least somewhat flexible.

5        19. The device as recited in claim 12, wherein said appliance is at least somewhat shapeable.

20. A treatment device, comprising:  
an antimicrobial sheet material having  
10                a first layer of polymeric material, and  
                  a second layer engaging at least one side of said first layer, said second layer containing silver; and  
                  an appliance for retaining said antimicrobial sheet material in a selected position engaging a treatment site so that, when said antimicrobial sheet material is in  
15        selected position, said antimicrobial sheet material releases metal ions to said treatment site when wetted.

21. The device as recited in claim 20, wherein said first layer further comprises a gel composition including a block copolymer and mineral oil.

20        22. The device as recited in claim 20, wherein at least a portion of said silver is crystalline.

23. The device as recited in claim 20, wherein said second layer is selected  
25        from the group consisting of (a) a coating on said first layer, said coating containing

said silver, (b) a quantity of said silver in said first layer, and (c) a silver-containing material attached to said first layer.

5           24. The device as recited in claim 20, wherein said second layer further comprises silver-containing nylon fabric.

          25. The device as recited in claim 20, wherein said antimicrobial sheet material further comprises at least one third layer engaging another side of said first  
10 layer, said at least one third layer made of moisture-absorbing material, moisture-permeable material, or moisture-impermeable material.

          26. The device as recited in claim 20, wherein said appliance is at least somewhat conformable.  
15

          27. The device as recited in claim 20, wherein said appliance is at least somewhat shapeable

          28. A device for treating dental and periodontal conditions, comprising:  
20 an antimicrobial sheet material having  
          a first layer of polymeric material, and  
          at least one second layer engaging a side of said first layer, said second layer containing metallic silver; and

          a dental appliance operably connected to said antimicrobial sheet material,  
25 said dental appliance configured for retaining said antimicrobial sheet material in a position wherein said antimicrobial sheet material engages a selected region in the

mouth of a user so that, when said antimicrobial sheet material is in said selected position, said antimicrobial sheet material releases silver ions to said treatment site when wetted.

5           29. The device as recited in claim 29, wherein said first layer further comprises a gel composition including a block copolymer and mineral oil.

30. The device as recited in claim 29, wherein at least a portion of said silver is crystalline.

10

31. The device as recited in claim 29, wherein said second layer further comprises silver-containing nylon fabric.

32. The device as recited in claim 29, wherein said dental appliance includes  
15 a somewhat conformable substrate carrying said antimicrobial sheet material.

33. The device as recited in claim 29, wherein said dental appliance further comprises a formable material attached to a side of said first layer, said formable material being shapeable.

20

34. The device as recited in claim 27, wherein said dental appliance further comprises a brace, a splint, a cap, a bite block, or a bite plate operably connected to said antimicrobial sheet material.

25           35. A method for making a device for use in treating dental and periodontal conditions, comprising:

providing an antimicrobial sheet material having a first layer of polymeric material and at least one second layer engaging a side of said first layer, said second layer containing silver; and

attaching a quantity of said antimicrobial sheet material to a dental appliance,  
5 said dental appliance configured for retaining said antimicrobial sheet material in a position wherein said antimicrobial sheet material engages a selected region in the mouth of a user.

36. The method as recited in claim 36, wherein said first layer includes a gel  
10 composition containing a block copolymer and mineral oil.

37. The method as recited in claim 36, wherein at least a portion of said silver is crystalline.

15 38. The method as recited in claim 36, wherein said second layer further comprises silver-containing nylon fabric.

39. The method as recited in claim 36, wherein said dental appliance further comprises a shapeable material attached to a side of said first layer.